



Volume 15

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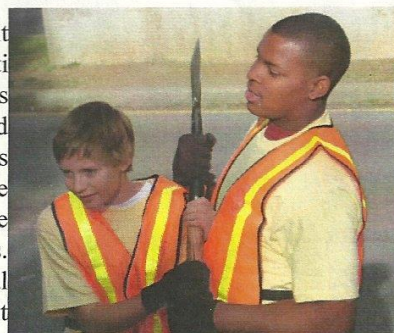
Microbes Show Spirit Through Service

8th Grade Graffiti Clean-Up

By Nick Trogon

On Saturday, October 24, a group of eighth graders from MBA and Harpeth Hall met for the Junior School's first ever graffiti clean-up service project. The site was a large train trestle at the split of Highways 100 and 70. The MBA guys loaded up on a bus and headed out to the site. When we arrived, we got out and walked over to see a group of girls standing near a large bridge with a train track going over it.

When I first looked at the bridge, it did not appear to have much graffiti on it at all. There were a few words but not as many as I had expected there would be. The adults put us in three groups and told us what we were going to be doing. They gave us all shirts and reflector jackets. Several of us were given metal scrapers, and the rest received paint rollers. Our job was to paint over the cracked and worn down walls of the bridge. The groups began painting, and after about thirty minutes, the adults called and said there was a snack break. The groups sat down on a hill and ate and drank for a while. After the break, we resumed painting and worked until the bridge was



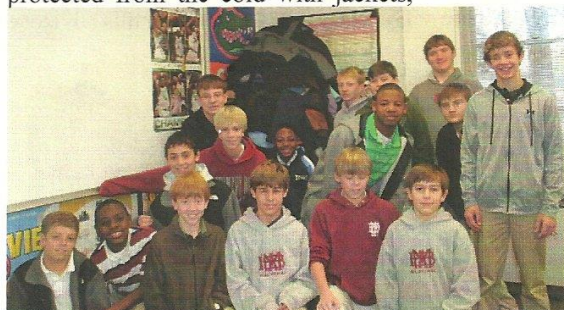
Taylor and Jashon cleaning for a cause

completely repainted. As we boarded the buses to return home, I believe there was a sense of accomplishment in all of us. The bridge was repainted, and our service project worked out well. In addition to doing a service for the

Winter Warmth This Holiday

By Aaron Kaplan

With the holidays, comes the cold of winter. We are fortunate to be protected from the cold with jackets,



MBA's warm hearts donate coats for cold weather.

sweaters, and warm clothing although many are not as fortunate. Mr. Cooper and his homeroom addressed this issue with great concern for the needy. For the past five years, Mr. Cooper's homeroom has collected warm clothing to benefit those in need of warmth during the winter, and this effort has come to be known as the MBA Annual Coat Drive. Mr. Cooper expressed an opinion on the collection of the warm clothing as opposed to collecting money. He said that collecting the clothing was more profitable than raising money. As the sale season continues and homerooms are looking for another service

project, donation drives are always great ideas. With five years of coat-collecting experience under their belts, Mr. Cooper and his students have been very successful, collecting an average of four hundred to five hundred coats a year. This year, Mr. Cooper hopes to exceed the five hundred coat mark. To top off the coat-collecting season, Mr. Cooper and his homeroom president and secretary take the coats over to the Nashville Rescue Mission in his truck, then go to grab a bite to eat on the way back to school. Since November 16, the coat drive has already collected a sizeable pile of coats. The sale will continue until the last day of exams, December 18. Do not forget to stop by Mr. Cooper's homeroom in Massey 11 and donate those coats!

SERVICE

Sweet Sales = Successful Service

By Henry Rogers

This semester there was a wide variety of bake sales. Although some might agree that a handful of bake sales could be improved, other sales were fantastic and raised large amounts of money.

The first bake sale of the year was held by the advisory of Mrs. Christeson. The Christeson advisory raised about \$400. The money from this bake sale was donated to Doctors without Borders, an organization that sends doctors out to heal people all over the world. This sale was somewhat chaotic, but it had lots of good food and fun for all. So overall, the Christeson bake sale got a B+.

The second bake sale was held by Ms. Ellery's advisory. The Ellery advisory raised a whopping \$365 with the profits of this bake sale going to the Preston Taylor Homes. This bake sale had lots of great food and good entertainment for the customers. Overall this bake sale gets an A-.

The third bake sale was the Bakken advisory bake sale. The profits from this bake sale were donated to Russell Anderson's Feed the Children collection. This advisory donated \$353.77 to help Russell surpass his goal. Because of the class's large contribution, Russell awarded the class *Call of Duty Modern Warfare 2*. The advisory will donate the game to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital for the older patients. The food and

entertainment at the bake sale were enjoyed by all, and because of this class' hard work and generosity, this advisory gets an A.

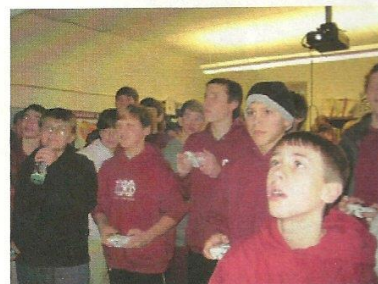
The next bake sale was the Spiegl bake sale. This hard working class collected a huge amount of money, \$500. This advisory's donation went to the Cheatham County Animal Awareness Foundation. With the *Simpson's Tree House of Terror* playing and *Call of Duty* sound effects filling the room, this bake sale was easily the best out of all of the sales this semester. The food was incredibly assorted from candy to the famous Krystal burgers. The drinks were also very diverse. This bake sale was also the first to introduce the delicious Arnold Palmer to the taste buds of some parched students. Overall this bake sale easily gets an A+.

The fourth bake sale was Coach Brown's bake sale. The Brown advisory's donations went to the reconstruction of Rockettown in downtown Nashville. Some people would agree that this bake sale had room for improvement. The food was not very diverse, and the vibe of the general atmosphere in the room was a little flat. Sorry Coach Brown's advisory, but you earned an overall rating of a B-.

Another bake sale was organized by the advisory of Coach McMurray. The profits of this bake sale went to the Magdalene House charity, an organization that helps rehabilitate women with histories of crime, abuse, and drug addiction. This advisory raised \$450. They also had an amazing selection of food and candy. The advisory had a quadruple split-screen on the Xbox for the newest *Call of Duty*. They also had a tremendously long list of customers who wanted to participate in the intense gaming. Overall, this advisory gets an A average.

The first seventh-grade bake sale of the year was hosted by Mrs. Vaughn's class. This bake sale sold over \$320 worth of food. The profits from this bake sale benefited the Feed the Children organization. Being the first seventh-grade bake sale and the first bake sale that Mrs. Vaughn has hosted, it took some dedicated time and work to make this an exceptional bake sale. Luckily, this class succeeded. Some people were commenting on the massive box of candy. Others were bragging about their insane Xbox skills. The overall rating for this class' bake sale is an A-.

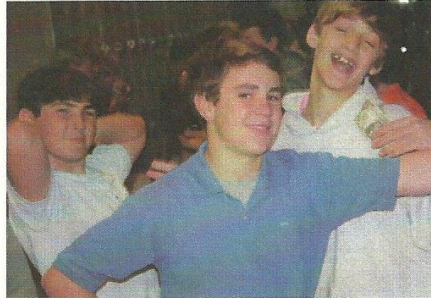
The last and final bake sale for this semester was a bake sale hosted by the homeroom of Mrs. Roberts. They were the second seventh-grade class to participate in a bake sale this year. The outcome of this bake sale resulted in a total amount of \$407, which the Roberts' advisory donated to World Vision, an organization that gives livestock to villages in Africa. The money raised by the bake sale will go towards the purchase of two sheep and two goats. This advisory sold out all of the items in stock. After a drastic price cut on all of the items during break, it was much easier to sell everything on the menu. The advisory raffled off *Call of Duty Modern Warfare 2*, and the raffle was won by Hank Thomas. The advisory did raise a lot of money, but they did not top Mrs. Roberts' record-breaking goal last year of \$586. Overall, this advisory



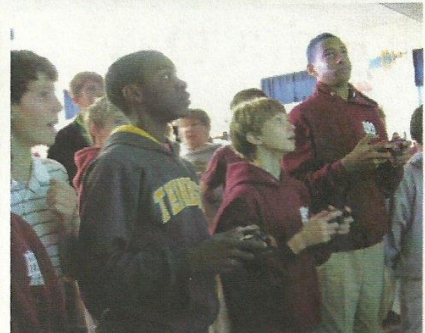
SERVICE

gets a solid A average.

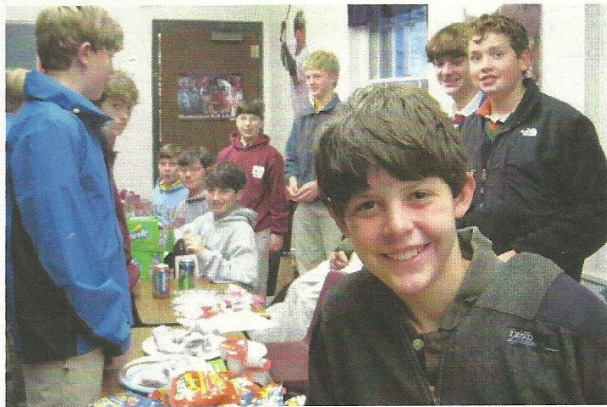
A few tips for bake sales: (1) Drinks sell like mad, especially Arnold Palmers and Jones Sodas. (2) The best items that sell are all sparkling beverages, puppy chow, donuts, and Krystals. Thank you to all who donated through the bake sales.



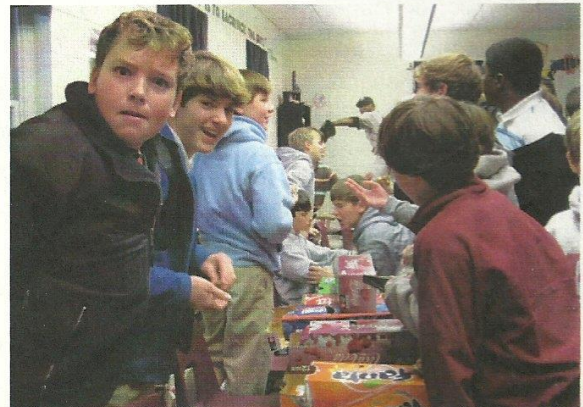
Have you bought your ticket to Clay's gun show? Jack is collecting the money.



If only they paid this much attention in class!



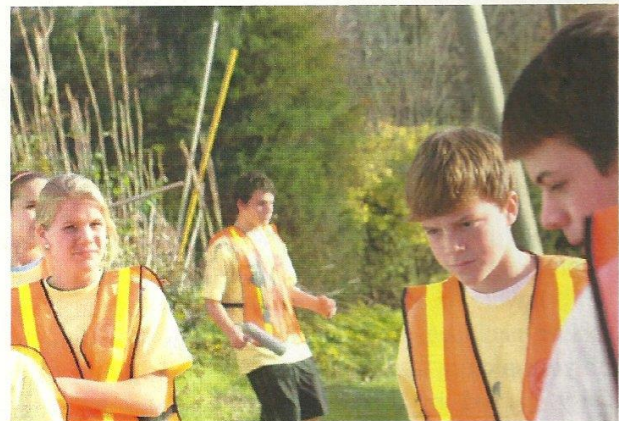
Neal is excited to show you his bounty.



Wait, we don't get to keep the money?!?



Looks like the girls are doing all the work!



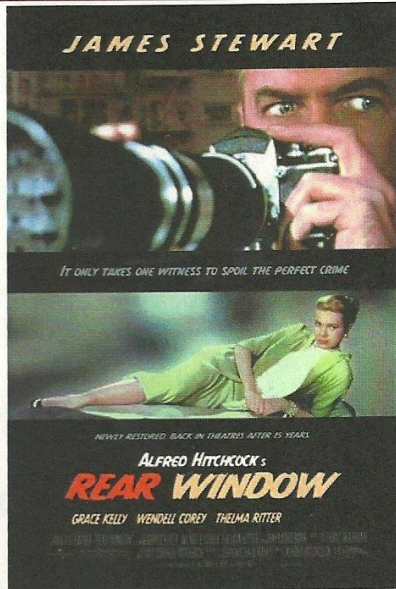
It's not that difficult, Will. You just dip the roller in the paint and then roll it on the wall.

FEATURES

Media Day

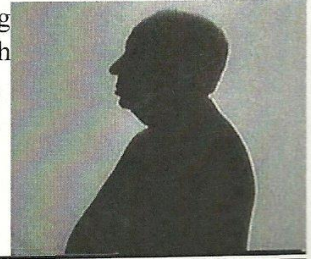
By Adam Biesman

On Friday, November 20, 2009, the eighth grade was dismissed from classes at eleven o'clock. We rode on MBA buses down to the Belcourt Theater to take part in the annual Media Day. The plan for the day was to eat pizza (with Harpeth Hall girls), discuss themes in movies, and how symbols in movies can change the meaning of it (with Harpeth Hall girls), and watch an Alfred Hitchcock movie (with Harpeth Hall girls). For those of you that do not know, Alfred Hitchcock was a movie director and author known for scary films and books.



When we arrived at the Belcourt Theater we separated into twenty groups and ate our pizza. We then

watched the opening of the movie *Rear Window* and discussed the importance of music and ethics in a movie. Next, the activity we were all waiting for, we watched the movie. As the movie progressed, it got a bit more eerie with each sudden movement. When the movie was at its climax, there would be a shriek from the audience. The movie had a good ending and, for a movie that takes place in one setting, it was incredible. All in all, Media Day was a fun time to watch a movie and hang out with the girls.

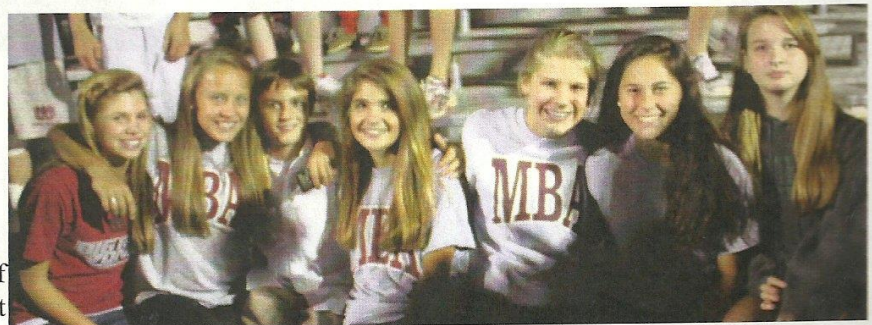


Docta Luv's Christmas List

By Mac McDonald

Christmas, the season of giving, is approaching quickly. Most guys do not know what would be an appropriate gift to give a girl. Here are some suggestions.

Jewelry is always a safe bet. A cheap necklace, bracelet, locket with your picture in it or something cheesy carved in it will do the trick. Another no-brainer would be a gift card for iTunes or to another store that she likes. Another great gift would be to take her to get a "mani-pedi" which is girl talk for a



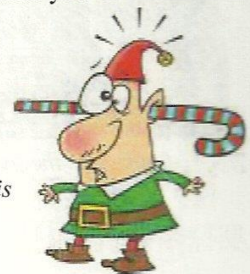
manicure and a pedicure.

Girls are also into clothes, so you could find out where her favorite least expensive store to shop is, and buy her something from there. If you do not like the way your lady smells, this would be a good time to buy a bottle of perfume for her.

Last, but not least, the most thoughtful gift is a heartfelt note. This note should contain how you feel about her and how lucky you

are to know her, yada yada yada and some other junk that will make her feel good. If this does not work for you, than I advise you to find a new woman.

Listen to Dr. Luv or you'll wind up like this elf!

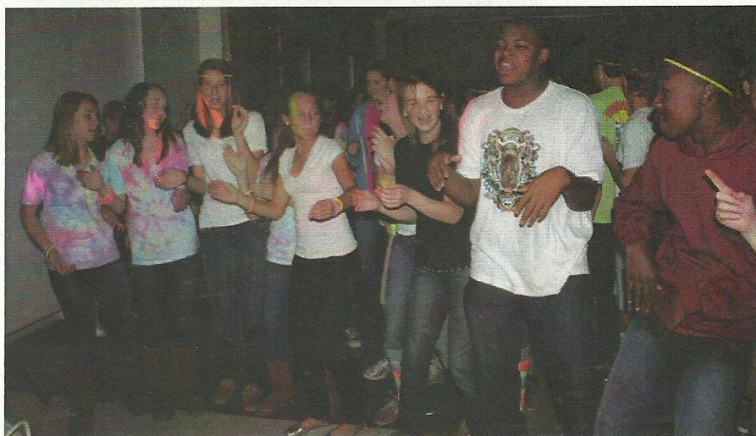


MIXERS

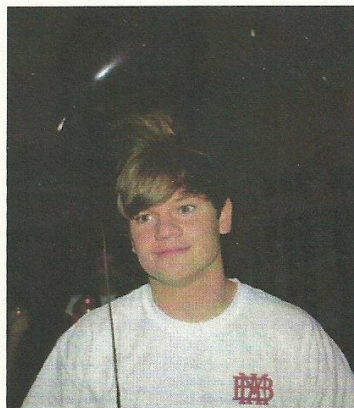
Halloween Mixer

By Nick Trogon

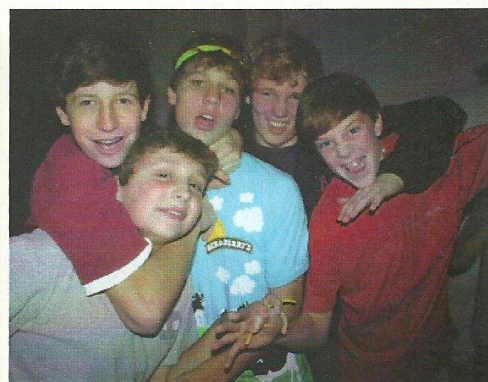
This year, the MBA eighth grade had a Halloween mixer with Harpeth Hall. The day before the mixer, Mr. Thurmond said that NO ONE was supposed to break the glow sticks and write with them. So naturally, as soon as I walked in the front door, the first thing I saw was glow stick juice all over the ground. The mixer started out about the same as most of the mixers in seventh grade with the girls dancing to the music, and the guys huddled in the corner talking. However, unlike last year, the guys quickly moved out and started enjoying the mixer. The DJ played songs, and everyone danced to the songs they knew. I do not remember which songs were played exactly, but I do remember that towards the end, one of the worst songs in history was played, "Firefly." I heard it was suggested by one of the MBA guys as a joke, but I won't tell who. The mixer was fun, and I think everyone had a good time.



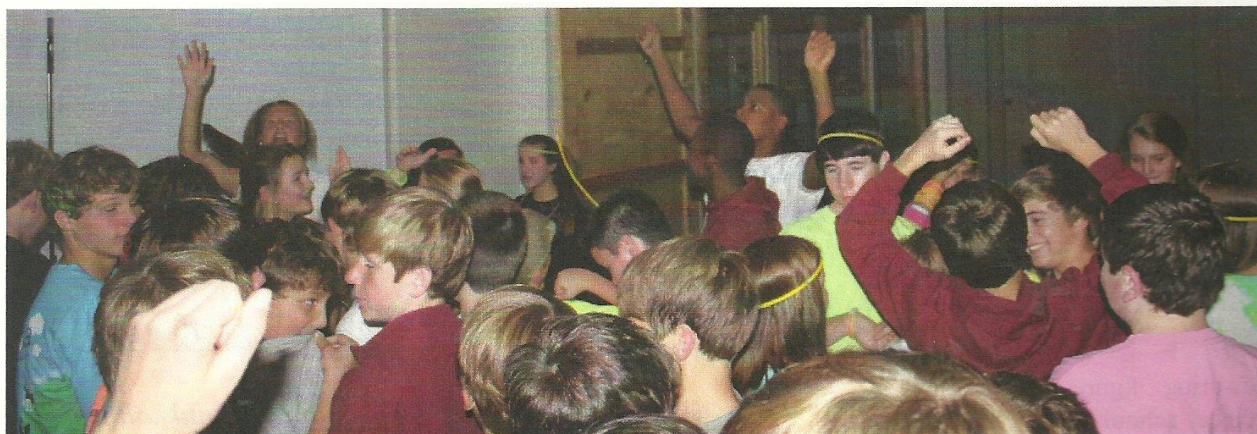
The Jashon and Travonte 'Show



In preparation for exams, Jack demonstrates static electricity.



Christian to Max: "Seriously Max, that is not a good pick up line."



FEATURES

Bowling Beats Bubble Gum Any Day

By George Hunt

In most seventh-graders' minds, the recent bowling mixer was seen as a step up from the previous "Bubble Gum Olympics." This mixer felt a lot more involved and social, and the boys and girls were not as hesitant to socialize. Although there was a lack of focus on the actual activity, bowling, the socializing was quite fun. The mixer started at ten on a Saturday

morning, which made it difficult for the late sleepers to attend. However, many suffered through the early start for yet another fun time being with the girls whom we will be spending time with for the next six years. When we first arrived at the mixer, we picked up our name tags. We all tried to use our best handwriting on our tags to impress the ladies. After lane assignments, the bowling began. Some chose to wander to different lanes to talk to friends, while others were perfectly content spending time in their lanes, improving their bowling skills. For many boys, the highlight of the mixer was when the teachers began to bring out the pizza. We raced over to get the warmest and best pizza of the bunch. But what would pizza be without a nice drink to cool you down from the hardcore bowling experience? So they also brought out cokes! It was then that I said to myself that this is truly the best

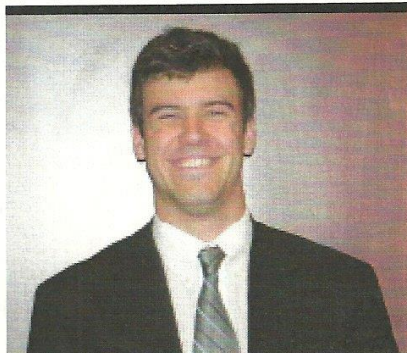
experience ever. While most everyone was eating pizza, the bowling lanes were deserted, leaving room for the real fanatics to race from lane to lane and get in as many reps as they could in the amount of time allotted. The end of the mixer was the time for the most socializing. Many people found it more comfortable to socialize standing by the doors before they left.

I spoke with a few of the bowlers about the event and here are their responses:

Henry Rogers: "The bowling was intense!"

Kang Huh: "I think all the seventh graders can agree that this mixer was a step up, but we still need more time socializing."

I think everyone is in agreement that the more time spent socializing the better.



Welcome, Mr. Davidson!

By Sam Weien

It is hard to miss the towering figure of our newest junior school math teacher, Mr. Davidson. Currently, he is coaching

the eighth-grade basketball team, and in January, he will be heading up the new junior school chess club. Despite Mr. Davidson's being an incredible Red Sox fan, Mrs. Roberts agreed to let me interview him for the paper.

SW: What drew you to come to MBA?

Mr. Davidson: Some of my friends in college went to MBA, one of whom was Headmaster Gioia's son, Chris. I emailed him for advice, and he told me to come to MBA.

SW: Where did you go to college?

Mr. Davidson: I went to Princeton University.

SW: What sports did you play

there?

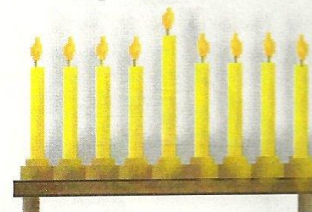
Mr. Davidson: Some JV basketball, club basketball, and intramurals.

SW: Do you have any family in Nashville?

Mr. Davidson: No, not in Nashville.

SW: How has your MBA experience been so far?

Mr. Davidson: Good. A generally positive experience.



*Happy Hanukkah from
the Top of the Hill Staff!*

“This I Believe”

Go The Extra Mile

By Christopher Burrus

Going halfway in life gets me nowhere. If the feeling of laziness overcomes me, I feel like I have failed. It seems to me that I can always go farther when I hear four specific words. These words bring out the real person I am. These four words are: “Go the extra mile.” These four words have pushed me through my life. My mom is the person who reminds me of this creed. It makes me do more than what I think is “enough.” My definition of enough is completing the task that is given to me. My mom’s definition of enough is exceeding what is required. I used to despise this saying for many

years because it involved hard work; but when I truly witnessed the feeling of accomplishing something that was difficult for me, my appreciation really came out. When I come to MBA in the morning, I feel the urge of hard work, and I always want to start on the right foot. If I come into a class knowing that I only did the homework halfway, the feeling of true happiness doesn’t come, but when I know that I have completed a job to the fullest, my smile returns.

This feeling of satisfaction does not only turn up in the classroom. It can also appear on the athletic field. While practicing a sport, doing only the required work is just mediocre. To go, in literal terms, the extra mile, I might be able to creep up in the lineups. But even if the coaches don’t notice, I will be able to look at myself in the mirror and know that I did what I could and even a little more.

Being the “most talented”

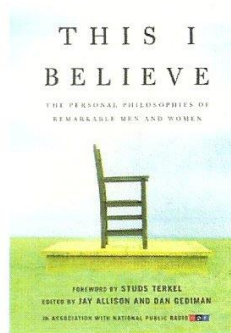
is psychological. If someone else is “better” than another, they might just be six inches better. In my mind, the better person is the one who tries the hardest and accomplishes the most from their hard work. Though not all coaches and teachers notice this, I feel like I am my best. If the last week of lacrosse is coming and I am vying for a position, I will go the extra mile. If the other person goes the extra mile with me, I will go farther.

Though I might not understand Geometry too well, how to run a five minute mile, or what the future has in store for me, I do know one main key of life: God made me for a reason, and if I go one extra mile every day, I am getting closer to finding out the reason. This I believe.



This I Believe

By Stroud McMahan



I believe in “Carpe Diem,” which means to “seize the day.” It means to make the most of every single day and give your best effort all the time. Live your life so you will not have any regrets. If I spend every day trying to do my best, I can achieve greatness.

Leave everything you have on the athletic field. You can become great if you give your best effort. I already regret not giving everything for

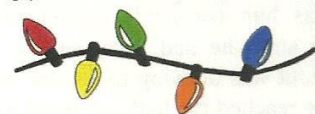
my old football team. I guess I could have gone a little harder, but now that I’m playing at MBA, I don’t get all of the playing time like I did before. If you take advantage of every practice you will get better, help your team get better, and you will get more playing time. Leaving it all on the field will pay off. If you give your best effort and still don’t make that tackle, then that’s all you can do. You did your best. George Dawson from *Life is So Good* gives his greatest effort in all the work he does for 70 years. Even though his jobs didn’t pay very well, he was happy with what he had because he gave his best effort.

I am given a great opportunity to do well in life because I go to Montgomery Bell Academy, but that won’t go very far if I don’t put any effort behind it. If I take advantage of learning every day it will eventually pay off in the long run. Carpe Diem

is also my motto for Latin class. My Latin teacher says it means to pick out the day like a flower and handle it carefully, but I figure this is close to the same meaning; you can believe either.

Like in the movie *Groundhog Day*, at first the main character feels imprisoned and tries to kill himself but always wakes up the next morning at the exact same time only to relive the same day over again. Then he realizes that he can use this opportunity, and he starts helping as many people as possible.

I believe that if everyone were to live like this, the world would be a better place. There wouldn’t be as many poor or homeless people, and more people would know the satisfaction of living your best every day.



SERIALIZATION

Episode II: Break Out Stake Out

By Fletcher Wolfe

I thrust my fists in frustration against the wood door and looked up. Knowing that I was trapped. I began to try all of the methods I knew of breaking locks. One seventh-grade summer report mobile was stripped for the hanger, but I had no success in using the hanger to pick the lock. I was just beginning to use a saxophone case to break the handle of the door when I realized something. I dropped the case with a bang and whipped out a plastic student ID from my pocket. I was able to push back the bolt with the card and thrust the door open. I fell exasperated into the hallway. It was evident I was dealing with a man who had no problem locking people in closets, someone brutal and merciless.

The next morning I stood with my back pressed to one side of the junction that connected the upstairs hallways of Massey in an "L" shape. I had picked up a three-ring hole punch as an afterthought that morning and kept it firmly in my hand. The idea that I would have to apprehend the culprit violently was becoming less and less alien as the sweat trickled down the sides of my face. The hallways were still deserted when the door opened. I threw a sideways glance and then ducked back behind my cover quickly. It was him (or her?) garbed in the same attire he had worn earlier. The stakeout was drawing to a close as the figure reached the halfway point of the

hallway. My hands tightened around the hole-punch, and I was now listening only to the sound of footsteps moving closer. I moved in one fluid movement, swinging from the cover and bringing the hole-punch sideways. The blow was low and smacked into the figure's elbow, most definitely nailing his funny bone. I stood frozen with my arms outstretched. It occurred to me that the figure might attack me, but no such thing happened. The figure took off, and I dropped the hole-punch. We leapt down the stairs, hopping the short four-step bursts of stairs. I slammed into the white walls as I caught glimpses of the figure's black shoes, moving just out of my vision. I stumbled down the long flight of stairs only to see the door leading to the outside begin to swing shut. I burst through the glass door, and the metal handle smashed into the brick. I ran after the figure through the dark. He was carrying a backpack that was olive color on his back, and it was slowing him (or her?) down. The chase out in the open was cold, but my blood was pumping so fast that I didn't notice. The figure banged his hip on the small ledges that passed in front of the Junior School office. I was able to clear the hip-high ledges and continue the high speed chase. The figure turned into the Massey courtyard and flung open the door, and I was able to catch it as it swung shut, barely touching it as I slid past. I was about ten feet away and gaining as we ran together up the stairs. When he had reached the top of the stairwell, he pitched the backpack towards me, and I pulled to the side, slamming myself against the wall. The backpack landed with a thud at the bottom of the flight of stairs behind me. It slowed me down, and the chase resumed with the figure in the lead now by about thirty feet. I saw him push the buttons on the elevator. The elevator

opened, and the figure stepped inside. As the door closed, I saw the artificial light reflect off the endless stare of the figure's sunglasses. I was going full speed, and my palms slammed into the elevator. I knew that the elevator could only go two places, down the short flight of stairs or to the first floor. I jumped the short flight that led to the first stop of the elevator and listened. The elevator passed it. I pushed open the door to the nearest stairwell open and ran down the stairs. I stood, fists raised outside the elevator door. I cannot explain how bewildered I was. The twin doors to the elevator opened wide, and the figure was gone.



Illustration by Wesley Tseng

FEATURES

From Russia to the Big Red: Mark Pettus Comes Home



By Sam Weien

MBA does not have many new teachers this year, but one of them is Dr. Mark Pettus. I sat down with him for an interview so that I could learn more about him.

SW: What period and classes do you teach?

Dr. Pettus: I help Mr. Gioia in first-period English AP, and I teach sixth-period Latin I.

SW: I understand you used to live in Russia. What made you move there?

Dr. Pettus: Russian literature at Vanderbilt interested me, so I went to live in Russia and got a Ph.D. in Russian literature.

SW: What did you do in Russia?

Dr. Pettus: I studied there for one year, wrote my dissertation, and then became a translator.

SW: Why did you come back to America?

Dr. Pettus: The Russian economy was falling apart, and there was a job opening at MBA.

SW: How many different countries have you visited and/or lived in since you left MBA?

Dr. Pettus: I haven't traveled very widely but have lived and studied in a few places for months or years, including Russia, Germany, and the Czech Republic. I've spent several weeks in Finland because it's close to St. Petersburg. Otherwise, Turkey and Austria are the only other countries I've set foot in, but I hope to visit Poland, Croatia, and Denmark sometime.

SW: I heard you graduated from MBA. What is the biggest difference from when you were here as a student?

Dr. Pettus: There are not many differences except that now we have more computers.

SW: What teachers at MBA had the most influence on you as you moved onto college and a career?

Dr. Pettus: I would say that Mr. Moxley most encouraged me to develop my writing skills, which were important in college and graduate school. Mr. Herring sparked an interest in history which became one of my college majors and an important aspect of my literary

research. The most influential and rewarding class was probably Mr. Womack's Art History class. Any MBA student who doesn't take it should think twice before calling himself a gentleman.

SW: What event or person got you started working in languages?

Dr. Pettus: When I was in the eighth grade at MBA, I was impressed by Dr. Gaffney's knowledge of languages, and I wanted to start learning them too. That summer on the eighth-grade trip out West, without knowing why, I bought a book in the Seattle Space Needle gift shop entitled *Learn Russian in Ten Minutes a Day* and unwittingly sealed my doom. At that point I thought I'd be completely happy in life if I could learn to read in a couple of strange languages and collect books in those languages. Later, I got greedy.

SW: How many languages do you speak? Which language was the easiest to learn?

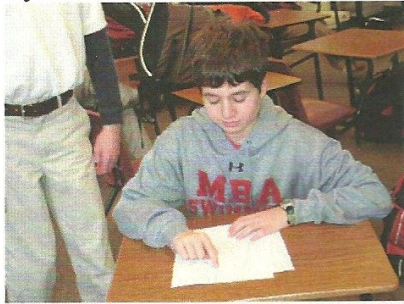
Dr. Pettus: I can read in Russian, German, French, Czech, Polish, Spanish, Danish, and some Italian and Ancient/New Testament Greek. This year, Miles Curry is teaching me Latin. I've studied some other languages for fun, like Arabic, Georgian, and Turkish. After studying Serbo-Croatian for several months, I bought my first novel in Serbian last week (*Garden, Ashes* by Danilo Kis). Danish was the easiest to learn because of its similarity to both English and German.

Welcome back Dr. Pettus!

EXAM REVIEW TIPS

How to Excel at Exams

By Adam Biesman



As many of you know, exams count as 25% of your semester grade, so it is imperative that you study thoroughly for these. To all new junior schoolers, this is not studying an extra hour more than you usually do for a test. Let me give you a few tips on studying for finals.

- For math, do the problems that your teacher tells you to work. For those of you that have Mrs. Qian, the

only types of problems that she puts on the exam are problems that are similar to the ones that she tells you to review. If your teacher does not give you these, I suggest looking over homework problems.

- For Grammar/Vocabulary, review the Big Red Rule Book and try to know the definitions for all of the parts of speech. You also may want to memorize all of your vocabulary words and definitions so you can easily answer vocabulary questions.

- I suggest reading every book/poem/short story that you discussed in class again at least two times for Literature and Composition. Make sure you know your literary terms and are familiar with symbols and themes in your book.

- Eighth graders, when studying for Latin, review all of your notes and memorize all of your vocabulary.

- The two science classes taken in the Junior School are very different. For IPS, I recommend memorizing

every formula, what it is for, and read the whole book from start to finish. For Earth Science, I also recommend reading the whole book, but also make sure to remember key terms. For both classes, make sure that you know important theories and memorize necessary tables such as the Periodic Table of Elements.

- History and Cultural Geography should be studied for by reading over all of your notes and the textbook. There are many questions that will refer to specific terms.

I believe that after you take your exam for the day, you should go home, play Xbox, and then start to study in the late afternoon or early evening. The range of how long people study can vary from three to seven hours. Also in the morning, I do not recommend waking up at seven thirty and hope that there is a short line at Krystal. Eat a healthy breakfast and get to school on time. A very helpful tip is to review all quizzes and tests. With these tips, you will be going to Bermuda for winter break because of your grades.



*The Top of the Hill Editors Wish You a Merry Christmas
--May Santa bring you all A's.*

EXAM SCHEDULE

*Friday:
Math*

*Monday:
English*

*Tuesday:
Grammar/Vocabulary
or Latin I*

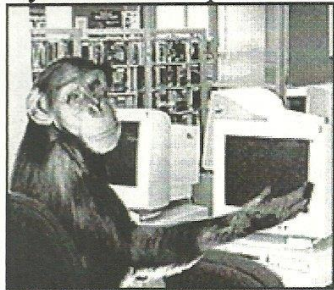
*Wednesday:
Science*

*Thursday:
History*

COMPUTER CORNER

Advice and Add-Ons

By Andrew Dupuis



Hello again! I hope that (1) you enjoyed my last article and (2) I didn't cause massive destruction to all of your computers.

This article will teach you how to make the ever-powerful XP look like Vista through add-ons. They might have viruses and give all your personal information to insane hackers, but so what? They're fun! ;)

First of all, Google has a cool little sidebar compatible with Windows XP that mimics the sidebar of Windows Vista. You can play games, get news, and even check your email, all without opening Internet Explorer. Go to <http://desktop.google.com> or just

search "Google Desktop" and click on the first result. Install the download, restart your computer, and voila! You have a beautiful sidebar. Drag it around to change where it is, or click on the little plus button in the top right to add widgets.

Second, there's WinFlip. This mimics Vista's Flip 3D effect. This allows you to press the Windows key (that says "start" on it) and tab at the same time to scroll through all your windows. To install it, go to <http://tokyodownstairs.blogspot.com/2007/11/winflip.html> or search it in Google and click on the result that says TokyoDownstairs. Once on the page, scroll down to where the word "Download" is bolded, and click the link under it. Save the file to your desktop. Once the download has finished, right-click on the file and click "Extract All." Once this has finished, there should be a new file on the desktop without the little zipper on it. Delete the file with the zipper, click on the new file. Scroll to the bottom of the folder and click on the file labeled WinFlip. Your screen should reset, and the new app is ready to go. Try the earlier key combination, and click tab to scroll. Release the Windows key to exit. Click on a window to open it. The only disadvantage of this app

is that you must click on it every time you run your computer. To make this easier, go back to the file used to start WinFlip, right-click, and select "Create Shortcut." Drag the new shortcut to the desktop and just click it to run the program.

Third, add the Thumbnail Previews of Windows in the taskbar using Visual Tooltip. Go to <http://www.crystalxp.net/galerie/en.id.197-visual-tooltip-chsalmon-explorer-tools.htm>. Unfortunately, you have to type this one in. Follow the same steps as the last tip.

Finally, for an all-out Vista Transformation, use the Vista Transformation Pack found at http://download.cnet.com/Vista-Transformation-Pack/3000-2106_4-10631175.html?cdIPid=10781793. This pack will change your computer to look like Vista in every way, and, used in conjunction with the previous tips, even make you think you have Vista. Only do this if you are sure you want a Vista computer.

Disclaimer: It's probably my fault if anything goes wrong with your computer; but you can't blame me! Because I don't exist. Yeah, that's right.

Windows 7: It's Here

By Andrew Dupuis

After the ever-so-long two years during which we were forced to endure the pains of Vista, a true operating system has arrived. Or is this newborn beauty just a reincarnation of the beast that was its predecessor?

First of all, Windows 7 looks new at least. With the "intuitive" control scheme, your desktop is less cluttered. This makes finding the right document or the right application remarkably easy. Despite these minor changes, the original Microsoft look is still here. The start menu lives on, and the actual windows you use to do anything look identical to all prior OSs. Other than this new visual streamlining usually lost in Microsoft products, Windows 7 isn't much different from Vista.

Second, Windows 7 brings the iPhone's multi-touch technology into a computer for the first time ever. With this new compatibility, any computer maker such as Apple or HP could put a multi-touch screen on the computer, and it would already be able to control the computer. With the right screen, you could "pinch" to zoom, "swipe" to flick through photos, or even type on a virtual keyboard. Because Microsoft is the first software

continued on page 16

FEATURES

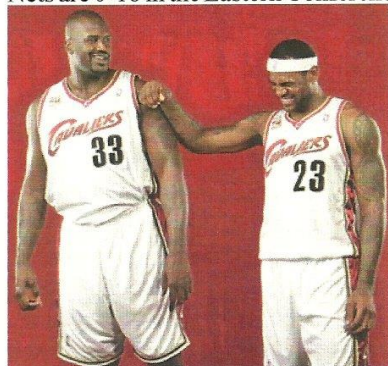


NBA Update

As of November 29, 2009

By Brandon Carpenter

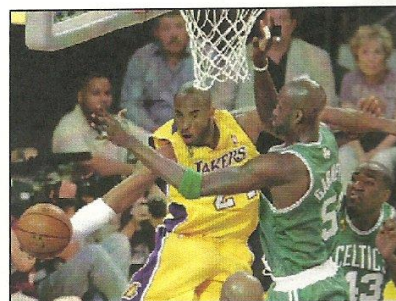
The start of the new season in the NBA has been a great one. The defending national championship contenders, the Lakers and the Magic, are continuing their incredible season from last year into this year. The Lakers (12-3) are second behind the Suns (14-3), in the Western Conference. The Magic (13-4) are first in the Eastern Conference. Could we see the same championship matchup again this year? Who knows? Players who have been traded have shaken up the NBA season in a good way. New pairings include Shaq and LeBron in Cleveland, Carter and Howard in Orlando, Duncan and Jefferson in San Antonio, Garnett and Wallace in Boston, and Artest and Bryant in L.A. However, not all teams are doing well. The Timberwolves are 1-15 in the Western Conference, and the Nets are 0-16 in the Eastern Conference.



Lebron and Shaq will be a dominating force throughout the season.

What happened? The Timberwolves might have to wait until next year to turn their season in the right direction. They could possibly have three first round picks in the upcoming NBA draft. The Nets made a huge mistake trading off Vince Carter even though they got Rafer Alston, Tony Battie, and Courtney Lee. The Grizzlies (6-10) are also having another horrible season. Allen Iverson did nothing, and their first round pick, Hasheem Thabeet, has suffered a broken jaw. Will the Grizzlies ever have a successful season? There are still four and a half months left in the

season... plenty of time for franchises to turn their season around or have it destroyed.



Could we see a Celtics-Lakers Final?
I think so.

Brandon's Predictions: How They Will Finish

First Round

Eastern Conference

- (1) Orlando over (8) Toronto
- (4) Atlanta over (5) Miami
- (3) Boston over (6) Milwaukee
- (2) Cleveland over (7) Indiana

Western Conference

- (1) Lakers over (8) Oklahoma City
- (4) Dallas over (5) Portland
- (3) Denver over (6) San Antonio
- (2) Phoenix over (7) Houston

Conference Semi-Finals

Eastern Conference

- (1) Orlando over (4) Atlanta
- (3) Boston over (2) Cleveland

Western Conference

- (1) Lakers over (4) Dallas
- (3) Denver over (2) Phoenix

Conference Finals

Eastern Conference

- (3) Boston over (1) Orlando

Western Conference

- (1) Lakers over (3) Denver

Finals

- (1) Lakers over (3) Boston

FEATURES

College Basketball Preview

By Davis Lovvorn

This year in college hoops is expected to be a great one. The freshman class is especially talented in so many aspects. I have compiled a list including some of the best teams, sleeper teams, and bust teams. Is your team on the list?

Kansas: The Kansas Jayhawks started off the year number one in all the polls by a landslide. Returning big man Cole Aldrich is going to be a dominating force down low. Freshman Xavier Henry has started the season thrashing his opponents, with a respectably high points-per-game average. Kansas fans: expect to be singing "Rock Chalk, Jayhawk!" throughout the season.

Michigan State: Number two in the polls to start out the season and returning from a NCAA Championship loss, the Spartans are a dominating force. Nearly all starters are returning, including guard Kalin Lucas who was a prominent force in the backcourt and should be a Naismith Award (NCAA MVP) finalist. Watch out for Lucas as he tries to lead Michigan State to victory throughout the season, which should happen consistently.

Texas: A surprise top three appearance, the Texas Longhorns are coming off a disappointing 2nd round loss to the Duke Blue Devils. Like Michigan State, Texas is returning nearly all of their star players from last year. Guard A.J. Abrams is a versatile guard who can drive in the lane and

shoot the three. Forward Damion James is another versatile player, able to play either power or small forward. Expect Texas not to finish around number three but still finish well.

Kentucky: The Wild Cats have climbed the ladder to dominance once again, bringing in new head coach from Memphis John Calipari and an amazing freshman class. One of those freshman is guard John Wall. Wall is a quick point guard who will give SEC opponents a headache. Patrick Patterson, an imposing big man, is also returning. Expect a wildly successful season with Kentucky.

North Carolina: The defending champion Tar Heels have lost nearly all their starters from last year, yet their deep bench and new freshmen should keep the tradition of winning at Carolina going. Tyler Zeller is replacing Hansbrough at the post, though no one can replace him. Expect a mildly successful season for the Tar Heels.

Duke: Without Gerald Henderson, Duke will have a lot of trouble against athletic teams but will still have a great season. Returning forward Kyle Singler is a versatile threat, able to post up and shoot the three. However, Duke lives and dies by the three, so expect them to have a bad season if they do not shoot well. Nevertheless, I trust Duke will have a great season.

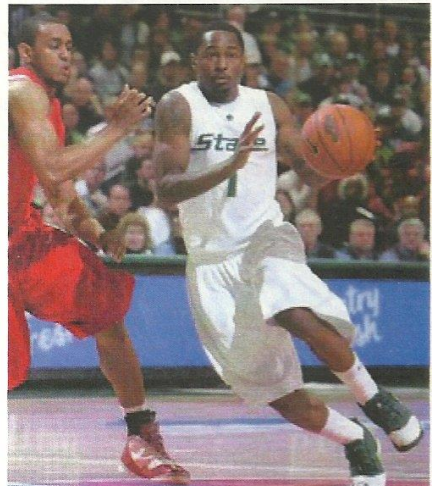
Bracket Buster: Siena: Falling just short of the top twenty-five, Siena is a team to watch for in the NCAA Tournament. Having a successful history in the tournament, Siena has messed up everyone's bracket in recent years (most infamously beating Vandy in the first round two years ago). Expect Siena to bust your bracket again

Sleeper Alert: Georgia Tech: Georgia Tech started out the season

barely in the top twenty-five, but I believe the Yellow Jackets are a quality top fifteen team. New high-school standout Derrick Favors should scare ACC teams, as well as returning star Lewis Clinch. Expect Georgia Tech to make it to and possibly win the ACC Championship.

Bust Alert: Tennessee: Returning stars Scotty Hopson and Tyler Smith should have a good season. However, with not much talent coming in, Tennessee may not be better than they were last year, which was not very good (they barely made the NCAA tournament). Even though they are ranked number ten to start out, they should slip and fall out of the top twenty-five eventually. UT fans: your only hope of winning a championship may only be to win the NIT.

Picks: My final four includes Michigan State, Kentucky, Duke, and Kansas. The championship game should include Michigan State and Kentucky. Michigan State should run the table in dominating fashion, handling Kentucky.



Can Kalin Lucas lead the Spartans to a championship this season?

FEATURES

The Debate Continues . . .



Young is Titans' Catalyst, Not Their Savior

By Jordan Pugh

Many people think that Vince Young is the savior of the Tennessee Titans. I am not going to try and sway your opinion but simply show you all of the facts so you can reassess your choice.

Vince Young is not that great.

Vince Young has never been the superstar that Tennessee expected. He has had some good games and has never been abysmal.

Big Picture: Titans Turned Season Around

By Matt Miccioli

I told you so. Well, maybe I did not exactly predict this series of events, but in my last article (a rebuttal to Blake Patton), I stated that the Titans would have a successful season. We are now 5-7, but we

However, Tennessee needs an amazing quarterback such as the great Peyton Manning. An average quarterback rating of 85.9 is not enough to lead the Titans to the Super Bowl. Also, Vince has only shown maturity in the last three games that he has played, something that is mandatory for someone in his position. However, many people still believe him to be the greatest thing to happen to Tennessee. Why? Because he managed to get them out of an 0-6 start? I hate to break it to you, but many quarterbacks can lead a team to five wins against average teams.

Vince Young is the catalyst of the Tennessee Titans.

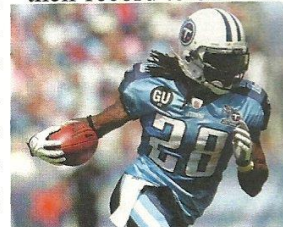
Vince Young has been very important to the Titans. After the miserable 59-0 Tennessee loss to the Patriots, Vince came out on the field and led the team to three stunning victories, all averaging above thirty points a game. Since then, he has also beaten the Texans and the

played well against the best team in the AFC this weekend. We had several chances to win the game, but we did not convert on fourth and goal three times. The Titans definitely need to work on their red-zone offense, but other than that, we have been playing well. Vince Young is playing very well; he has adapted to the situation and turned the season around. His wide receivers are playing like veterans, but the biggest news is Chris Johnson. He now has over 1500 yards rushing

Cardinals. He is definitely doing much better than Kerry Collins, who has to know when to call it quits in his unusually long career. However, I do not think that it is Vince's skill that has transformed the team as much as his personality on the field. His main effect is on the offense. He is not only doing his job but is also charging up the offensive line and getting them to block better and harder. He is also earning their trust through acts of selflessness such as making a block for the star running back Chris Johnson. Through these acts, Vince Young is shaping the line into its former Super Bowl self.

In my opinion, Vince Young is not all that great alone. However, I think that the way that he has bonded with the Titans has fueled them and made them look like the Super Bowl team they once were. Thus, I think that Vince Young is an important part of the Titans but not the great quarterback that everyone suspects he is.

in twelve games, and has a good shot at rushing for 2000 yards. The Titans offense is playing very well. The defense has also significantly improved, but they could still use some extra work. Overall, the Titans are a much better team; I predict their record to be 8-8.



Chris Johnson

PREDICTIONS

BOWL MANIA!

This year's bowl season goes from December 19 until January 7. Your team's postseason fortune will be told in this article. Which bowl will your team make?

Citi BCS National Championship Game - (BCS No. 1 vs. BCS No. 2)
Texas vs. Alabama

FedEx Orange Bowl - (BCS vs. BCS)
Georgia Tech vs. Cincinnati

Tostitos Fiesta Bowl - (BCS vs. BCS)
Iowa vs. Boise State

Rose Bowl - (BCS - BCS)
Ohio State vs. Oregon

Allstate Sugar Bowl - (BCS vs. BCS)
Florida vs. TCU

Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl - (ACC vs. SEC)
Auburn vs. UNC

AutoZone Liberty Bowl - (C-USA vs. SEC)
Kentucky vs. Houston

Chick-fil-A Bowl - (ACC vs. SEC)
Virginia Tech vs. Arkansas

AT&T Cotton Bowl - (Big 12 vs. SEC)
Ole Miss vs. Oklahoma State

Valero Alamo Bowl - (Big 12 vs. Big 10)
Texas Tech vs. Michigan State

AdvoCare V100 Independence Bowl - (Big 12 vs. SEC)
Georgia vs. Oklahoma

Capital One Bowl - (Big 10 vs. SEC)
LSU vs. Penn State

Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl - (Big 10 vs. MAC)
Notre Dame vs. Central Michigan

Outback Bowl - (Big 10 vs. SEC)
Tennessee vs. Northwestern

Insight Bowl - (Big 10 vs. Big 12)
Minnesota vs. Texas A&M

*Predictions by Sam Weien
as of December 1st*

Who Will Win the Heisman Trophy?

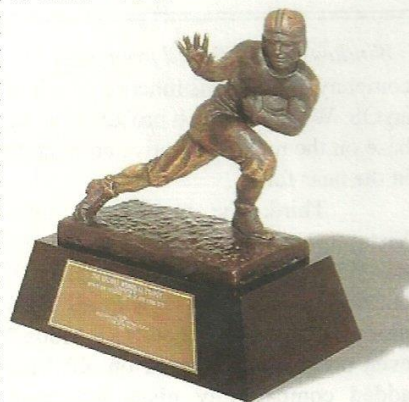
By Brandon Carpenter

Class of 2014 Predictions:

1. Mark Ingram - Alabama - 29.2%
2. Toby Gerhart - Stanford - 12.5%
3. C.J. Spiller - Clemson - 8.3%
4. Tim Tebow - Florida - 14.6%
5. Colt McCoy - Texas - 25%
6. Kellen Moore - Boise State - 4.2%
7. Eric Berry - Tennessee - 18.8%
8. Other - 16.7%

Class of 2015 Predictions:

1. Mark Ingram - Alabama - 33.3%
2. Toby Gerhart - Stanford - 11.9%
3. C.J. Spiller - Clemson - 7.1%
4. Tim Tebow - Florida - 23.8%
5. Colt McCoy - Texas - 16.7%
6. Kellen Moore - Boise State - 4.8%
7. Eric Berry - Tennessee - 31%
8. Other - 9.5%

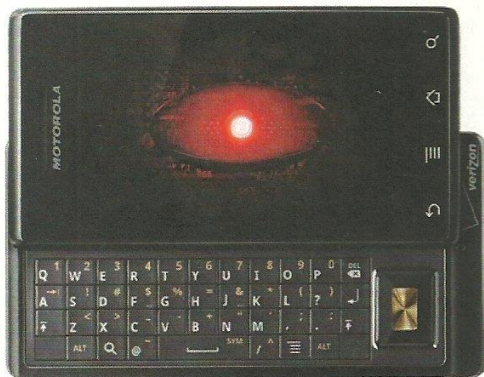


ENTERTAINMENT

Droid v.s. iPhone

By Cameron Travis

Today new phones and updates are popping up all around our lives. In the cellular phone world, the two big power house companies, Verizon and AT&T, are in a huge race to develop the world's first cell phone which can do almost anything. Most recently Verizon unleashed the Droid. AT&T has had its iPhone on the market for a couple of years. Despite its age over the Droid, the iPhone still has people wondering which phone is better. The



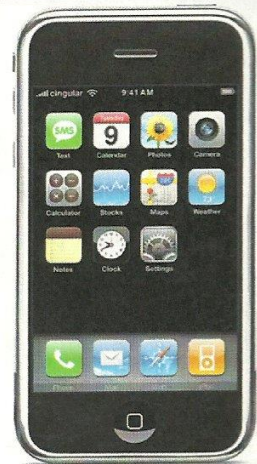
The Droid by Verizon Wireless

Droid's large screen and full QWERTY keyboard make it an ideal phone for texters and web surfers. You have no need to fear about the mobile web crashing on the Droid. Verizon has more than three times the 3G coverage of AT&T. The iPhone also has a large screen, and when flipped sideways for texting it also has a full QWERTY keyboard. There is no beating the touch screen on the iPhone. However, the Droid also has a quick responsive touch screen. The Droid has a 5 mega pixel camera and video recorder with a dual LED flash for those night pictures. Along with the great camera comes a great app which can be used to edit and crop photos. The iPhone has a great camera and video recorder but doesn't have a flash, so I hope you brought along a flashlight.

Also available in the App Store is more than one photo-editing app. So, for the photographers I recommend the Droid. Both the Droid and the iPhone have more than 10,000 apps available to download so you never get bored. but keep in mind the apps on the iPhone differ from the apps on the Droid. The iPhone has more games and entertainment apps while the Droid has apps which are more help with our day-to-day lives. The most commonly asked question

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is, "Is it worth switching companies so that I could have the other phone?" My answer is no. If you are on Verizon, you already have a fantastic selection of phones, but the Droid can do it all for you. To AT&T users, I suggest staying with your current plan, but if you don't have the iPhone, I strongly recommend looking into this amazing phone. If you are on one of the other phone companies like Sprint, Nextel, or T-Mobile, I also strongly recommend switching to Verizon for great coverage. But, if you prefer having less coverage but a more computer-like phone, I recommend switching to ATT.

Windows 7: continued from page 11
company to build this functionality into an OS, Windows 7 will probably be the base on the most innovative computers in the near future.

Third, the worst fear from Vista: compatibility. Microsoft rewrote the Windows kernel for Windows 7, but designed it to work with all Vista products, and with a new "XP Mode," even programs that work on XP. This added compatibility gives Microsoft

the advantage, since most companies, and programs for those companies, still only run on XP.

In conclusion, Windows 7 is a return to basics version of Windows that eliminates the unneeded clutter found in its predecessors. It adds multi-touch, so it won't become outdated in the near future; adds compatibility, so businesses can actually use it; and it adds my trust because in my opinion, this operating system rates a strong 4.5

out of 5.



ENTERTAINMENT



Modern Warfare 2

By Jackson Rich
Xbox live gamertag: jrich767

Modern Warfare 2 is a thrilling sequel to the best-selling video game, *Call of Duty 4 Modern Warfare*. The game has been described by many game reviewers as "The biggest gaming release of the decade," and boasts the sale of over 4.7 million copies in just one day! This makes it the biggest gaming release of all time! When you get to the main screen of *Modern Warfare 2* you will see three different sets of game play that you can select: campaign, special ops, and multi-player. I will give a brief overview of all the sets.

The campaign is the main story line of the game, and if you are new to the *Call of Duty* franchise, then I suggest that you play at least the first mission, and preferably several others, before moving on to play special ops and multi-player. In the campaign you play as Gary "Roach" Sanderson, a member of the highly elite task force 141, whose mission is to kill the ultranationalist Russian Vladimir Makarov. In addition, you will also play as one other member of task force 141, captain "Soap" Mactavish and several

other army rangers. I will not give too much away about the campaign, as it is far more entertaining to experience it yourself than to listen to me talk about it, but I will say that much of the game play is highly controversial. A lot of fighting is done on U.S. soil, and some players may find it alarming to be fighting here. One mission in particular that is HIGHLY graphic and possibly unnerving is a level where you play as an undercover C.I.A. agent who is forced to kill civilians in order to gain a certain terrorist's trust. If you find this mission too graphic to play, there is an option to skip the mission before it starts.

Special ops mode is a collection of mini-missions that are unrelated to the story line of the game, and generally takes 1 to 5 minutes to complete each one. The missions can be played either by yourself, with a friend on the same console, or with a friend through Xbox Live or Playstation network. There are 23 unlockable missions to be played. Some people say that special ops mode isn't fun. I agreed at first, but then I realized that it is a lot more fun when you play with a friend. The missions do get better when you start unlocking new ones.

In multi-player there are two modes, split screen or Xbox Live/Playstation network. Both are

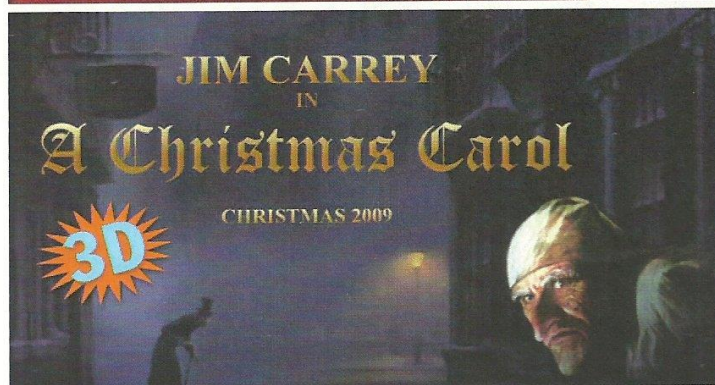
essentially the same things, except on split screen you play against friends on your own gaming console, while on Xbox Live/Playstation network you play against either friends or entirely random people over an Internet connection. I'm sure many of you reading this article are familiar with Xbox Live/Playstation network, but this next bit is for those who aren't. When playing over the Internet, players can select many different game types such as team death match, capture the flag, or search and destroy. For all you old *Call of Duty* fans, good news! The create a class system has been entirely redone! Well, not entirely redone, all your primary weapons are still there, (minus the shotgun), but for your secondary weapon, you can now have shotguns, machine pistols, pistols, or rocket launchers. Another new system is the customizable killstreaks, which are variations of the old killstreak system from the first game, except now you can unlock items other than choppers and air strikes. You can also have items such as an AC-130 gunship, a predator missile, and a tactical nuke.

In summary, I give this game a 9.5 star rating. For all of the hype leading up to this game's arrival, it has definitely proven to be everything promised and more. I hope you all have a great time playing *Modern Warfare*

2, and please feel free to email me with any questions you have about this article.



ENTERTAINMENT



A Christmas Carol

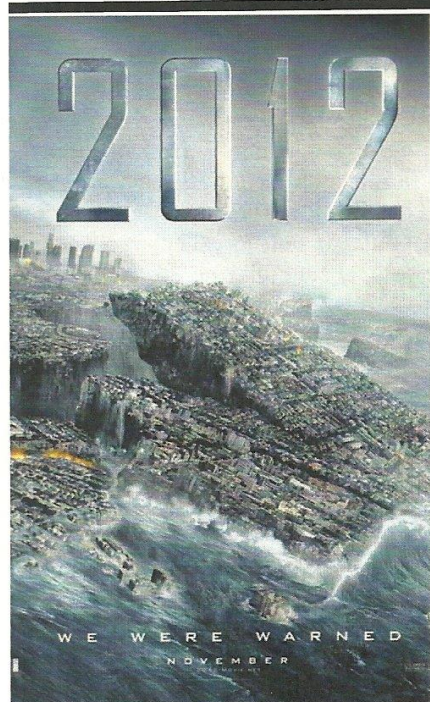
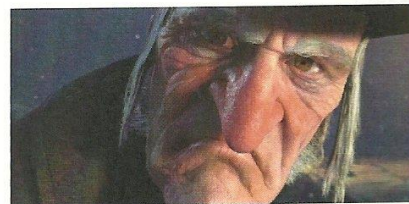
By Harry Stewart

Although this new version of Dickens's classic, *A Christmas Carol*, is a visual treat with some near exact quotations from the book,

there are also a few odd and sometimes even frightening scenes. For an example of a few of the more visually

pleasing scenes, the scene where Scrooge is introduced to the Ghost of Christmas Present is filled with wonderfully detailed graphics and near perfect sound. Aside from this lush scene, there are also those where every word is quoted exactly. For example, in the second scene of the movie in Scrooge's counting house, there isn't a word misplaced from the book itself. On the opposite end

of the spectrum, there is the scene with the ghost of Scrooge's old business partner, Jacob Marley. In this scene, the spirit is frighteningly real, and the face of the ghost is gruesome. Lastly, there is one scene that is unrelated to the story itself. In this scene, a ghostly horse-drawn carriage chases Scrooge for three to four minutes, and at one point, Scrooge is shrunk down by the driver of the carriage. Other than that, this is a great movie and a visual delight. I'd recommend it for anyone.



2012: This Year's Top Thriller or Biggest Dud?

By Jordan Pugh

2012 was set up to be one of the biggest movies of 2009, but it is sadly disappointing. Many of the characters are poorly developed throughout the movie. The first hour is wasted developing characters solely to kill them in some catastrophic manner. Also,

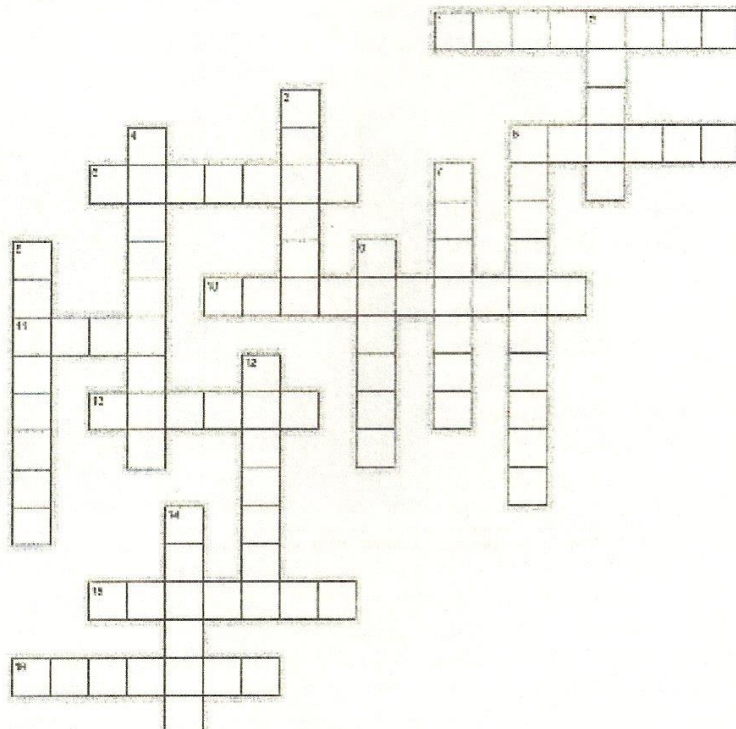
the movie is highly unrealistic. The huge explosions and catastrophes are outrun by bulky cars and novice pilots. These elements seriously detract from the film's realism. One thing that I can say for this movie is that the special effects are amazing. However, these too take away from the film. What few developed characters that are in the movie are eclipsed by the 1000-foot walls of water and sinking states. These characters and their stories are thus minimized into obscurity and detract from the film even more. I would give this movie 2.5 out of five.



JESS' CROSSWORD

Can you find out the (last) names of these MBA teachers?

Jess Darnell



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

1. Owns a truck and teaches math
5. Attended the University of Virginia and is involved with Hockey and Lacrosse
6. Head Wrestling Coach
10. Junior School Athletics Director
11. History & English Teacher, who coaches Ultimate Frisbee
13. Involved in Fine Arts and Track and Field
15. Math teacher, who attended the University of Virginia
16. Coaches Microbe CC and teaches English

Down

2. Typically seen holding a toothpick and teaching science.
3. Math Teacher, who attended Hartwick College
4. You have no idea how much this guy HATES hippies.

5. Attended Wake Forest University and teaches art
7. Attended Ball State University, and is a science teacher
8. Went to Johnson & Wales University and is involved with the Food Club
9. Teaches English and History, and attended the University of Alabama
12. Takes plenty of pictures and is involved with the baseball club
14. Attended Davidson College and is part of the Thespian Society

ENTERTAINMENT

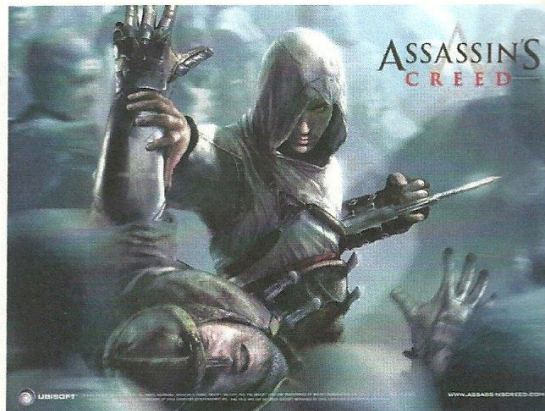
Assassin's Creed 2

By Blake Patton

Assassin's Creed 2 is the sequel to the best-selling action adventure game *Assassin's Creed* and is available on the Xbox 360 and Playstation3 gaming systems. The story circulates around Animus "The Machine," which in Latin means hostility or ill-will. It is an open-map game and takes place in 15th century Italy. The machine helps the main character and new assassin, Ezio

Audiotre da Firenze, find important history and landmarks that can help him become the perfect assassin. Created by Ubisoft Corporation, the game begins with Desmond Miles, a citizen in the year 2012. He uses the Animus to look at his past ancestor, and to make a long story short, is slowly revealing a warning of the end of the world. To show that an assassin does play into the story, however, a certain character named Borgia holds the original Apple of Eden that is one of the centerpieces for

Earth's destruction along with the cross that Jesus was crucified on. The game receives an average of four out of five stars, and I would highly recommend it to any gamer out there.



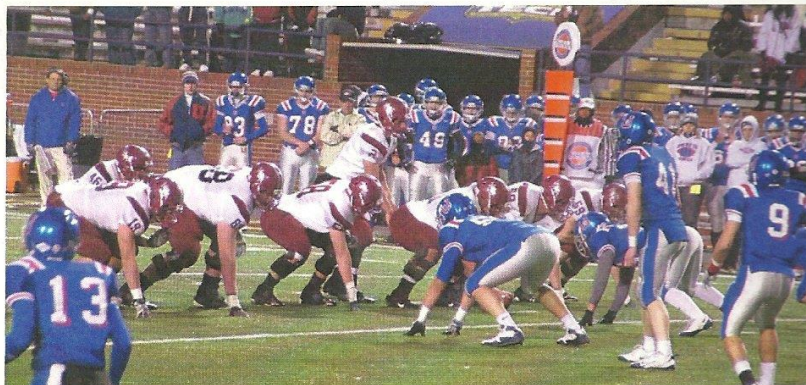
Division II AA Play-Off Recap

By William Richardson

This season's TSSAA football tournament for Division II AA teams was very exciting, especially for Big Red fans. In the first round, MUS, Ensworth, Christian Brothers, and Father Ryan all had byes in the tournament. Briarcrest defeated McCallie 36-29 at Briarcrest. St. Benedict lost to Baylor 42-10. MBA had an amazing win over BGA 45-10 at MBA. Despite an earlier homecoming loss to BGA, the Big Red pulled out a victory. Brentwood Academy then beat JPII 61-7 at BA. Then in the quarterfinals, Father Ryan beat Briarcrest 45-35. MUS defeated Baylor 38-7. In an exciting game at Ensworth,

the Big Red pulled off a tremendous victory 27-24 with a last minute-field goal. BA then traveled to Memphis and beat Christian Brothers 31-21. The semifinals were left to decide the match up for this year's DII AA Championship game. In Memphis, Father Ryan lost to MUS 23-15. In a very close game at Brentwood Academy, MBA pulled out a great win in double-overtime. Because BA missed an extra point to tie it up and send it into a third overtime, MBA won 42-41. This win put MBA in the state championship

along with MUS in Cookeville, TN. For this game, there was a huge turnout at Tennessee Tech University. In the Junior School alone, there were three buses filled with 7th and 8th graders. MBA won the toss, deferred, and ended up kicking off to start the game. MBA was down at halftime, but ended up coming within three points of the #6 ranked high school football team in the nation (according to rivals.com). All of the Big Red fans were disappointed to hear the final score of 27-17 MUS over MBA.



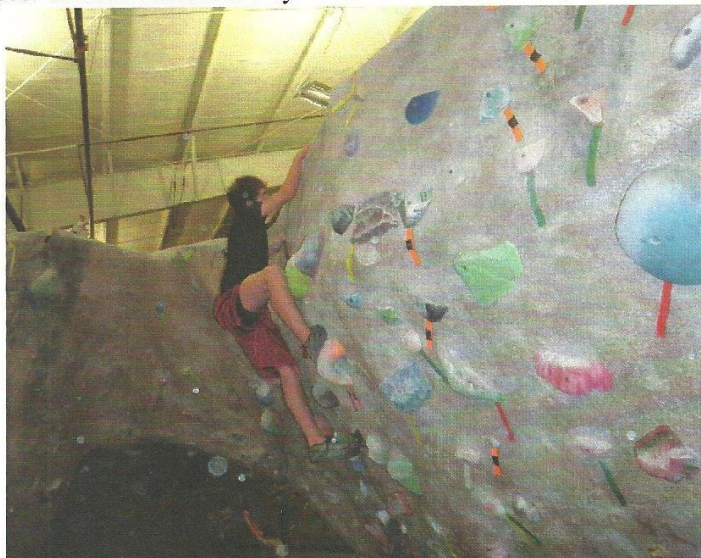
SPORTS

Bouldering Becomes New Microbe Sport

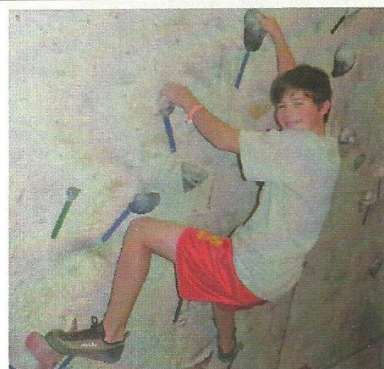
By Nicholas Heim

The Junior School has a new sport to participate in: rock climbing. It is a great new opportunity to build strength, have fun, and meet new people. On Tuesday, the Climbing Club meets at Climb Nashville. There, we can climb on anything we want and also learn how to belay. We also have the option of bouldering. Bouldering is where you climb on a short, challenging wall without ropes. You are surrounded by "crash

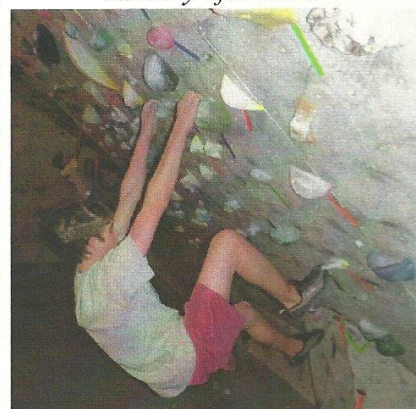
mats" to block your fall. Many people like it, but the experience is short because of its height. On Wednesday, we also meet at Climb Nashville. However, we can't climb on anything on Wednesday because we get instruction from a Climb Nashville instructor. This is a great time to improve on your center of balance and conquer new fears. Having this instruction is very helpful because it improves your performance on both your high ropes and your bouldering skills. On Thursday, we meet in the MBA Weight Room. There, we run up and down stairs, do push-ups, pull-ups, and crunches. Climbing Club is a great experience, and it is still a choice if you are in intramurals. This is a very successful first season of Junior School climbing, and I am very excited about this experience in the future.



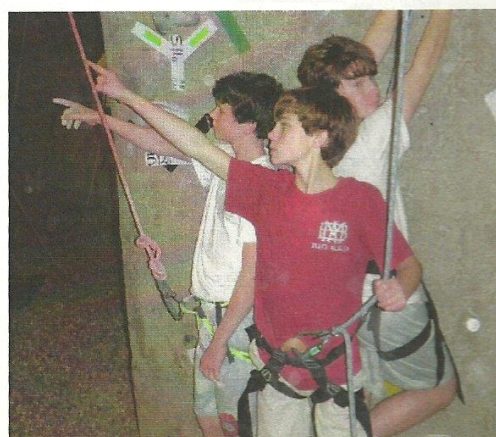
Almost there Parks!



Chris is just hanging around on a Tuesday afternoon.



Right before he hit the mat Hayden could be heard saying: "Look mom, no hands."



Nick, John, and Stuart imagine what it would be like to climb Mt. Everest . . . without any arctic gear.

SOCCER

Sweet Success! Soccer Six-Peat!

By Jonah Rappuhn

The Microbe A Soccer Team won the HVAC for the sixth year in a row. We lost some great eighth graders from last year's team, but some seventh graders stepped up and played well. We played our first game against USN. We had only one practice going into the game, but we pulled out an ugly

victory, beating them 1-0. Our toughest opponent was CPA. We played them in the HVAC championship game and beat them 2-0. The team scored about 50 goals throughout the season, and only let in 3 goals. Sam Smith, Colton Black, and Jonah Rappuhn made the All-HVAC team.

On behalf of the Microbe A Soccer Team, we would like to thank all of the coaches, teachers, and students who came to cheer us on in the championship game against CPA. The coaches of this year's Microbe Teams were Coaches Klausner, Cheevers, Lanier, Paolicchi, and Eppstein.

Thanks to all of the fans who came out and supported us. You made all the difference.

Shutout Season So Close

By Anthony Swenson

The soccer B team had a great season, starting on October 13. Coach Lanier and Coach Eppstein guided the team to an undefeated season. The first game was against USN. Despite having only one practice, the team won 4-0 in the cold and rain. For the next game, the team faced CPA. Everyone contributed to an 8-0 victory. The following week was a game at BGA. Once again, everyone played well with



HVAC CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

SOCCER

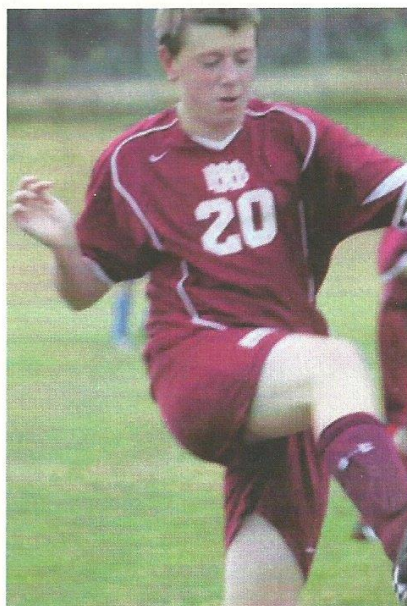
an outcome of 5-0. So far, the team was proud of how we played.

Once again, the B team faced CPA, but this time it was on their home field. After another shutout by goalkeeper Braden Welborn, the final score was 7-0. Then we faced the MBA C Team. It was a well fought battle on both sides, but once again the B Team won 2-0. Goals were scored by Luke Kinman and Alec Eskind. FRA was another good game, but it was hard to control the ball because you could not forget about the wind whenever you passed or shot the ball. The final score was 7-0.

Our final game was on our home field against Ensworth. The game was close, but the B team won 2-1. An unlucky goal in the last two minutes ruined the team's shutout streak. However, the defenders, consisting of Sam Harwell, Davis Luster, Eric Anderson, Keon Cleary, and Geoffrey Holland, played incredibly well throughout the year. The offense was also very strong because of our starters, Sam Pinsly, Trice McCullar, Sam Carey, Rem Houghton, David Spencer,

and Alec Eskind.

The entire team is proud of how we played and contributed throughout the season. There was no HVAC tournament for the B team, but the team feels we would have won if we had the chance to play in one.



Paolicchi's Army Marches On

By Sam Weien

The second year in MBA microbe soccer C history turned out to be a successful season, while being a fun one too. After tryouts, the C team had a week of practice before our first game.

For our first game we drove over to the USN river campus to face the Tigers of USN. After a scoreless

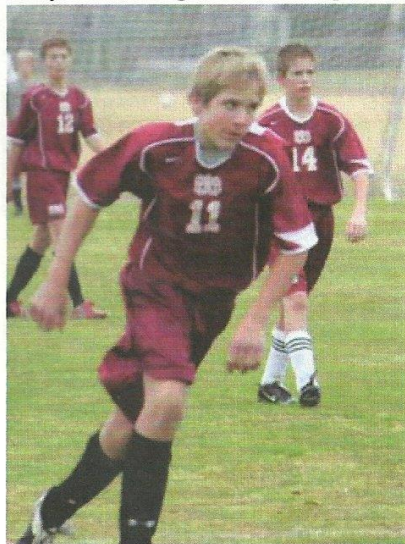
first half, Ben Shankle and Michael Milam scored goals in the second half to give us a 2-0 win on the 26th of October. The next day we had a game against BGA at 42nd Avenue. Star striker Hayden Palm scored both of our goals to provide another 2-0 win. On October 29th, the C team played a good game but tied CPA 1-1. Hayden Palm scored his third goal of the season, but we also allowed in our first goal of the season.

On the next Monday, November 2nd, the mighty C team faced Brentwood Academy and won the game 3-1 with goals from Diamond "Flash" Famous and Hayden Palm. On November 4th, we faced a certain unnamed team across the street. After a long hard-fought game full of great defense, we tied them 0-0. Goalie Grant Myers provided his 3rd shutout in 5 games. The next day we faced BGA again. Another 2-0 win made our record 3-0-1. Go-to-guy Hayden Palm scored both goals in that game.

On November 9th, we faced our biggest rival, the MBA B team. We played a great game with a couple of good plays from each team; however, the C team lost 2-0 to the B team. Coach Paolicchi said it was one of the better if not the best games we played all year. The B team said we were the best team they played all year too.

Finally, our team of many names (the D team, C team silver, C team gold, Paolicchi's Army, and the Sink's Battalion) faced Brentwood Academy for the last game of the season. We played well, but BA beat us 3-0.

Overall, the dominating C team squad went 4-2-2 and had a great season. Special thanks to Coach Paolicchi and Coach Sinks for helping us have a great season and lots of fun.



Photos Courtesy of Bianca Parker

WRESTLING

An Amazing Start

By Ben Barton

The microbe wrestling team has had an amazing first half of their season. Our first match was against FRA. The team completely shut out the opposing team 81-0 and did not allow a single FRA wrestler to win a match. The microbe wrestlers' second match was against BGA. Even though we sent our JV team to compete, we were able to crush BGA 60-24. The next match was another victory for the microbe wrestlers as we overwhelmed the Ensworth Tigers 66-15. The team's next challenge was a must-win match against the skilled Harding Academy team. This match proved to be a preview to the HVAC, and once again, the microbe wrestlers triumphed 45-34. Of worthy note, wrestler Wells Hamilton put Chadler Telfer on his back for the first time in two years, crushing his ribs with a legendary Xerxes.

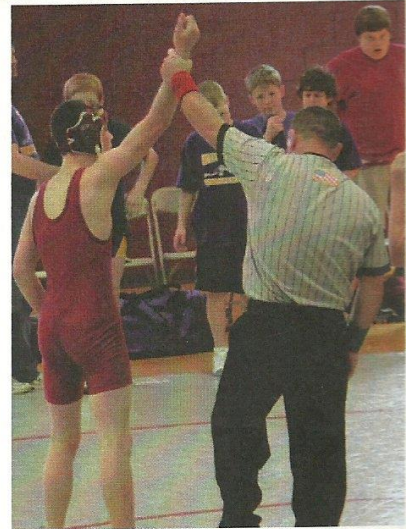
The Big Red wrestlers dominated the MBA Middle School Duels. The JV took sixth, and the starters took second, losing to McCallie in the finals by one match. Another impressive feat during the duels was the fact that the team beat Nashville Catholic for the first time ever.

Brentwood Academy was our next challenge. We tied them 41-41, but on a more positive note,

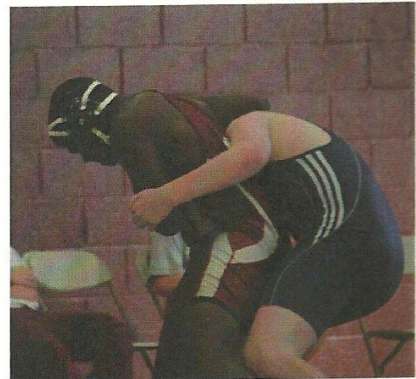
we completely dominated them in the HVAC tournament.

The culmination of our first half of the season was the HVAC tournament. We won first place by beating BA and Harding Academy. Individual winners included Sam Bellet, Jashon Robertson, and Tyler Forcum who has now won the HVAC for two years straight. Runners-up include Chip Brothers, Sam Papel, Jake Keen, Wells Hamilton, Sam Stallings, and Blake Patton. Third-place wrestlers include: Blake Solarek, David Smith, Ben Barton, and Ben Kelly, and Nick Trogon came in fourth.

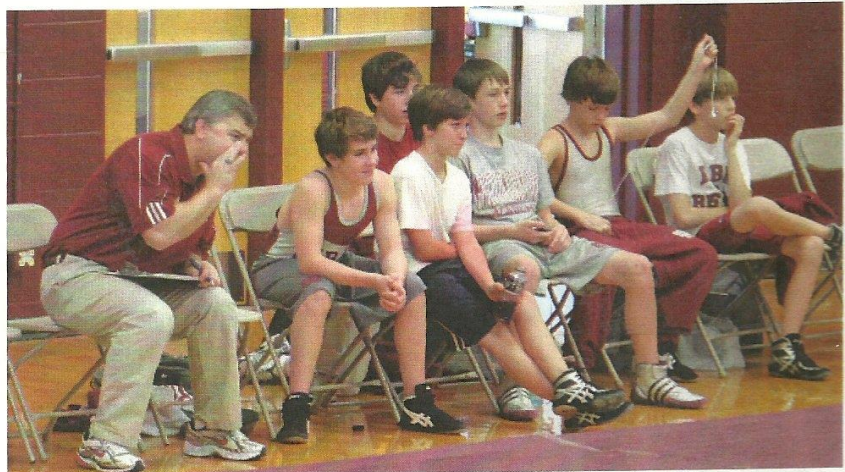
On the same day, the JV team went to the Harpeth Tournament, where they placed 7th. Wrestlers placing in the tournament were Ridley Wills placing second, and Christian King won best match. The team would like to thank Coach Shone, Coach Norton, and Coach Gillespie for the incredible start to the season, and we are confident we will continue to improve and have an amazing rest of the season.



Another Big Red victory!

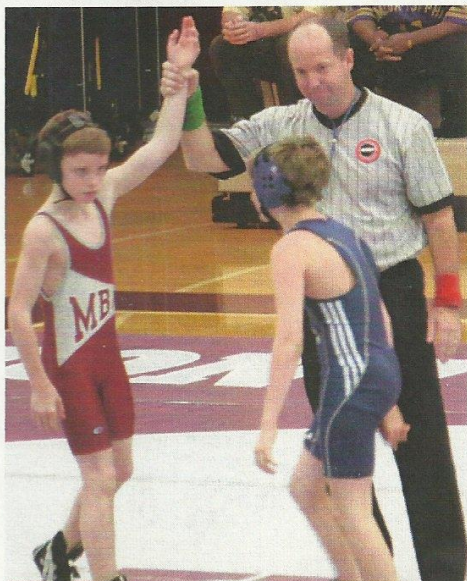


There's no escaping D.J.'s hold.

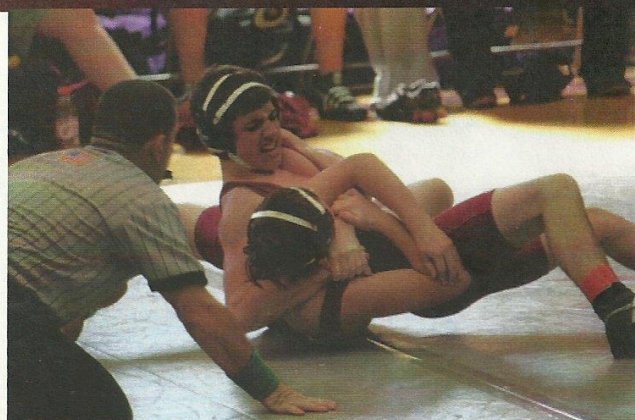


Coach Shone instructs the team while other supporters cheer from the sideline.

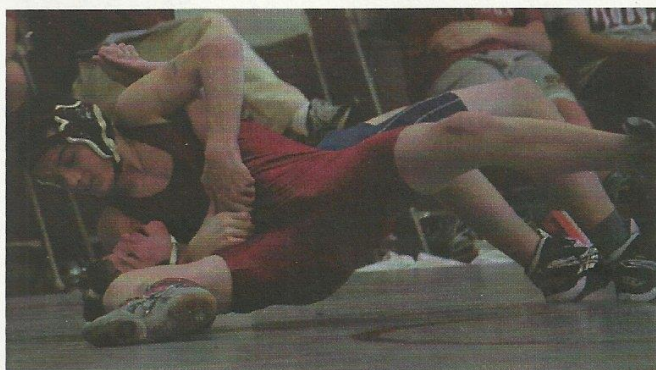
WRESTLING



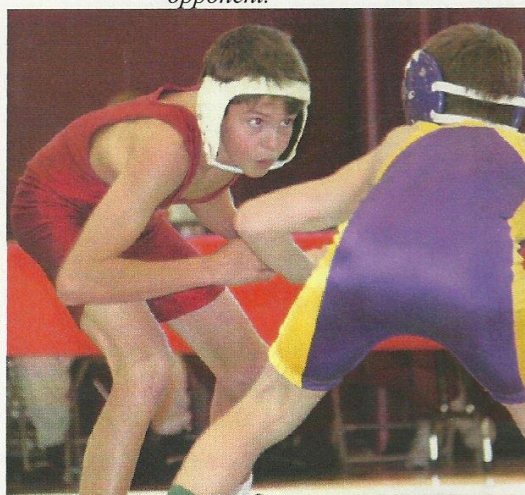
Another victory for Sam Bellet!



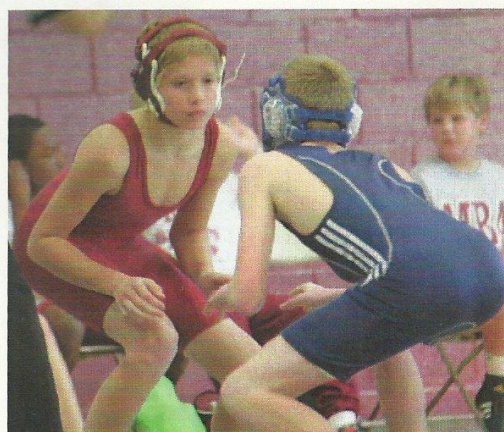
Carson Shaw demonstrates the perfect headlock on his opponent.



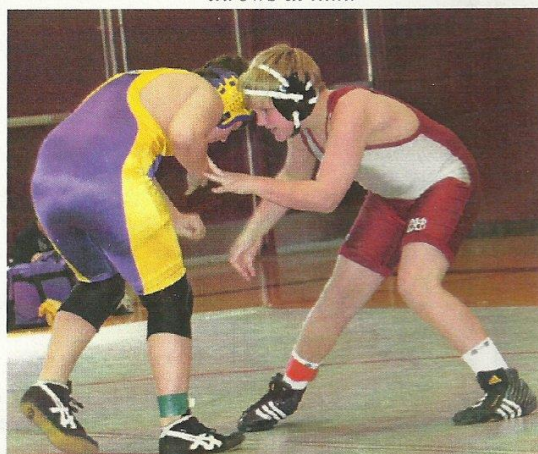
David Smith shows his opponent no mercy!



John Tipps is ready for whatever his opponent throws at him.

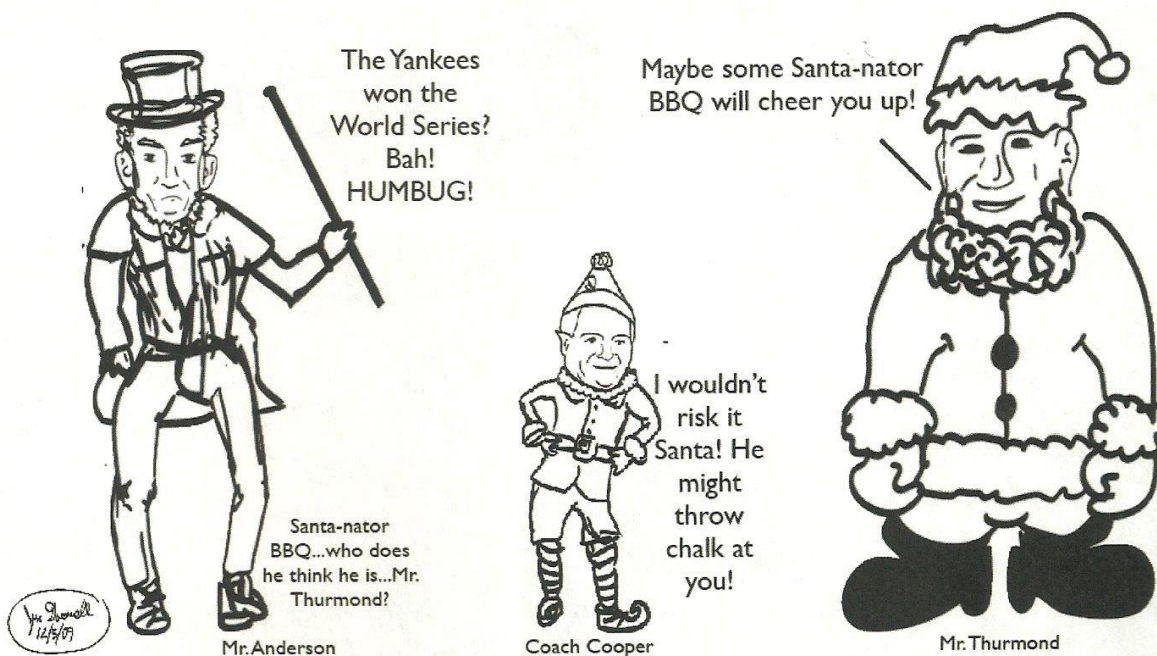


Fearless Microbe wrestlers, Taylor Adams and George Hunt, size up their respective opponents during their duels.



THE BACK PAGE

A MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL STAFF



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